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Metropolis Thematic Resources"

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PROPERTY NAME VICTORY SCULPTURE

LOCATION South side of 35th St. at King Dr. CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Chicago

COUNTY Cook STATE Illinois ZIP 60653

OWNER'S NAME Paul Karas, Commissioner of Public Works; City of Chicago

LOCATION 121 N. LaSalle Street CITY/TOWN/VICINITY Chicago, Illinois

STATE Illinois ZIP 60602

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION Cook County Recorder of Deeds

118 N. Clark Street

Chicago, Illinois 60602

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION CENTERED ON MEDIAN PARKWAY DIVIDING MARTIN LUTHER KING

DRIVE, IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF 35th STREET, INCLUDED AS

A PART OF THE BOULEVARD SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO.

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE Less than one acre

Leonard Crunelle, sculptor

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1927, 1936 ARCHITECT AND/OR BUILDER John A. Nyden, architect

DESCRIPTION GRANITE PYLON ON CONCRETE BASE INSET WITH FOUR BRONZE RELIEF PLAQUES
FINISHED WITH A BLACK PATINATION. THE FIGURE OF A WWI DOUGHBOY WAS
ADDED TO THE TOP IN 1936 (SEE ATTACHED)

DATE AND NATURE OF ALTERATIONS FIGURE AT TOP ADDED IN 1936 TO THE ORIGINAL COMPOSITION

OUTBUILDINGS AND/OR OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES ON PROPERTY (ATTACH SKETCH
PLAN IF APPLICABLE) N/A

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet VICTORY SCULPTURE

Item number 7 & 8

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VICTORY SCULPTURE

35th Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

Date of construction: 1927, 1936

Sculpture: Leonard Crunelle

Architect for base: John A. Nyden

At the close of World War I, movements were begun within the black community to honor the valorous achievements of the Eighth Regiment of the Illinois National Guard which served in France under the 370th U.S. Infantry. Although a memorial tablet was placed on the Eighth Regiment Armory honoring members who died in service, and the street upon which the Armory was located was renamed in 1922 in honor of Lieutenant George L. Giles, the highest ranking officer to be killed in action, the black community began petitioning for the erection of a suitable monument befitting the valor of the "Fighting Eighth." By the mid 1920s proposals for erection of a permanent monument in the parkway of Grand Boulevard in the vicinity of 35th Street were met with stiff opposition by the South Park Commission which had control over the boulevard system. The South Park Commission maintained that there was no space available for such a monument, but relented after the *Chicago Defender* began actively promoting a "vote no" campaign against the commission board, urging blacks to defeat any project backed by the South Park Commission until due recognition of the community's war heroes was realized. The monument was funded jointly by the South Park Commission and the State of Illinois, and sited to replace a fountain in the boulevard parkway at the corner of Grand Boulevard (now Martin Luther King Jr. Drive) and 35th Street, immediately across from the offices of the Liberty Life Insurance Company. The design was prepared in 1926 and consisted of a circular grey granite shaft with three symbolic inset bronze sculptural panels finished with a rich black patination portraying a black soldier, a black woman symbolizing motherhood, and the figure of Columbia, holding a tablet which recorded the locations of the regiment's principal battles. The sculpture was designed and executed by French-born sculptor Leonard Crunelle (1872-1944), a former pupil of noted Chicago sculptor Lorado Taft. The base and architectural setting of the monument was designed in collaboration with Chicago architect John A. Nyden. The completed monument was dedicated on Armistice Day, November 11, 1927 in an extensive public ceremony. In 1936, the figure of a uniformed World War I black doughboy was added to the top of the monument, the sculpture also being the work of Leonard Crunelle.

The sculpture is one of the most famous landmarks of Chicago's black community, and is the site of an annual Memorial Day ceremony when the surviving members of the "Fighting Eighth" gather to honor the memory of their fallen comrades.

VIRGINIA, Rockbridge County, Mechanicsville vicinity, Locust Hill, VA 608 (05/12/86)

WASHINGTON, Clark County, Vancouver, Anderson—Baletski Prune Farm, 4119 NW McCann Rd. (05/15/86)

WASHINGTON, Cowlitz County, Castle Rock vicinity, Leughlin Round Barn, 8249 Barnes Dr. (05/15/86)

WASHINGTON, Lewis County, Chehalls, Palmer, O. K., House, 673 NW Pennsylvania (05/15/86)

WASHINGTON, Snohomish County, Everett, Weyerhaeuser Office Building, 1710 W. Marine View Dr. (05/14/86)

WASHINGTON, Whitman County, Oakesdale vicinity, Hanford, Edwin H., House, N of WA 271 (05/15/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Barbour County, Philippi, Philippi B & O Railroad Station, 148 N. Main St. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Beallmore (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1500 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Brooke Cemetery (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 2200 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Duvel, General I.H., Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1222 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Elmhurst (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1606 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Hall, Lewis, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1300 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Paul, Harry and Louisiana Beall, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1312 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Tarr, Lucy, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 1456 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WEST VIRGINIA, Brooke County, Wellsburg, Fleming, David and Lucy Tarr, Mansion (Pleasant Avenue MRA), 2000 Pleasant Ave. (05/16/86)

WYOMING, Carbon County, Saratoga vicinity, Jack Creek Guard Station, Off FDR No. 452 (05/15/86)

The following properties were also entered in the National Register but were excluded from a previous notice:

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Chicago Bee Building (Black Metropolis TR), 3647—3655 S. State St. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Eighth Regiment Armory (Black Metropolis TR), 3533 S. Giles Ave. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Jordon Building (Black Metropolis TR), 3529—3549 S. State St. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Ovarton Hygienic Building (Black Metropolis TR), 3619—3627 S. State St. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Unity Hall (Black Metropolis TR), 3140 S. Indiana Ave. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Victory Sculpture (Black Metropolis TR), Thirty-fifth St. at King Dr. (04/30/86)

ILLINOIS, Cook County, Chicago, Wabash Avenue YMCA (Black Metropolis TR), 3763 S. Wabash Ave. (04/30/86)